

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are currently pending in this application and have been allowed in a Notice of Allowance, mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”) on May 1, 2007. Claims 14-23 have been canceled without loss of Applicants’ right to file these claims in this application or one or more continuing applications. Upon review of the allowed claims, it was noted that claim 1, step (i) contains a typographical error. This Amendment corrects that inadvertent error.

Claim 1, step (i) has been amended to replace “(g)” with “(h).” Claim 1, step (i) now reads, “repeating steps (c) through (h) until either no new nucleotides are incorporated in step (c) or the 3' blocking group persists in not being separated and removed in steps (f) and (g)...” It is step (h) of claim 1 that recites the confirmation of separation and removal of the 3' blocking group by detecting for the presence of a labeled nucleotide, where its presence indicates the separation of the blocking group was not successful. Therefore, amended claim 1 recites repeating the confirmation step (step (h)) along with the extension, initial detection, and removal steps (steps (c) through (g)) for each cycle of the sequencing reaction. This amendment is supported within the specification as filed, *e.g.*, at page 3, final paragraph and page 20 through page 21, bridging paragraph¹. The specification describes the repetition of detection of labeled nucleotides during cycles of sequencing reactions and verifying their absence or presence.

The amendment to claim 1, step (i) corrects a typographical error that was not recognized by Applicants until after the Notice of Allowance was mailed on May 1, 2007. The USPTO in the Notice of Allowance determined that the elements of claim 1 are patentable. Upon the entry of this Amendment, all of the same elements of claim 1 remain incorporated into claim 1 --

¹ Page numbers are based on the substitute sheets of the published PCT application, WO 00/53805, which was filed as this § 371 national stage application.

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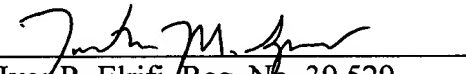
without the addition or deletion of any element. Amended claim 1, step (i) simply includes the repetition of step (g) during each sequencing cycle, as is fully supported in the specification.

Therefore, no further search or examination of the claims is required on the part of the USPTO.

Applicants submit that the proposed amendments do not add new matter. Applicants respectfully request that the present amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.312 be entered.

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Respectfully submitted,


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